

MORGENTHAU HITS GOVERNOR'S AIDES

Says Many Are Employees
of Private Companies

By BERNARD STENGREN

Robert M. Morgenthau charged yesterday that Governor Rockefeller was a "part-time Governor" who depended for advice upon employees of private business "not responsible to the people of the State of New York."

The Democratic nominee for Governor also accused Governor Rockefeller of using an altogether fictitious statistic on the state's economy.

"I have news for the Governor," he said in a statement issued yesterday. "There is no such statistic as a 'state growth rate.'"

Mr. Rockefeller had used the term in saying that the economic improvement in the state under his administration had been better than that of the nation as a whole. The Democratic candidate reiterated his charge that employment rates in the state were "lagging behind" the national average.

The part-time allegation was made in the dimly lighted lobby of a Bronx apartment house, one of two Mr. Morgenthau visited yesterday.

An aide said the trip was made "to see first hand the results of the abuses and negligence rampant under state Republican administration over rent controls."

Fairly Companies

Mr. Morgenthau said that Governor Rockefeller spent only 20 per cent of his time on the job, and that most of his advisers were employees of the Rockefeller family's private companies.

Before entering each of the three apartments, Mr. Morgenthau was supplied with the appropriate sheaf of documents by Gerald P. Halpern, Bronx director of the city's Rent and Rehabilitation Administration. The new agency took over rent control here on May 1.

A start led to the by-passing of one building in Manhattan and another in the Bronx. According to Mr. Halpern, the landlords of one building visited were among those indicted for fraud Wednesday for building a Bronx grand jury. A company that supplied kitchen cabinets there, and at a second building on the tour, was indicted.

Questions Tenants

Consulting his documents, Mr. Morgenthau prompted Mrs. Steven Elliot of 2075 Grand Avenue, the Bronx to disclose that she and her husband had paid \$85 rent from January, 1960, to January, 1962, then \$80 for the next four months and \$85 since. The woman, who carried her 9 1/2-month-old daughter Stacy in her arms, said that she had found out the rent had been \$43.60 before she and her husband moved in.

She replied to another of Mr. Morgenthau's questions that the landlords had obtained the increase from the Temporary State Housing Rent Commission on the grounds that new wiring and new kitchen cabinets "that cost over \$1,000" had been installed.

Mr. Morgenthau showed her a copy of the invoice filed with the state showing the landlords, Murray and Natalie Kenner, had paid \$1,325 for the cabinets.

"This was a phony bill," Mr. Morgenthau said. "They actually paid \$550." He pointed to a report from the new city agency.

Mr. Halpern said his agency had ordered a reduction to the original rent, with \$2.75 added for new wiring.

Reductions Reported

Much the same scene was repeated in the apartment of Donald Feldstein, who lives in the same building as the Elliots, and at the home of Mrs. Sam Berkon, 1514 Townsend Avenue.

Mr. Halpern said that a key to his investigation was the Goldleaf Sales Corporation of 772 McLean Avenue, Yonkers. More than 200 tenants in 20 buildings that Goldleaf had supplied with new kitchen cabinets have been given rent reductions, he said, and are entitled to triple the amount of rent overcharges they have paid.

Mr. Morgenthau returned to his Commodore Hotel headquarters early in the afternoon to tape several television programs. The former United States Attorney will depart for Washington this morning to attend a White House conference on narcotics.

He said he hoped to meet with President Kennedy, if the latter's schedule permits, and discuss with him campaign appearances in New York.

Tomorrow afternoon, Mr. Morgenthau will go to his father's farm at Hopewell Junction, N. Y., to spend the Rosh Hashanah holiday.

James B. Donovan, the Democratic candidate for the Senate, also will be in Washington today, presumably to confer with the President. He and aides left New York by train last night.

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MORGENTHAU
29. B. DONOVAN

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